

Substance Abuse

Signs & Symptoms in Attorneys

Early Stage

- ✓ Professional: client neglect, unreturned phone calls, late for depositions, cancelled appointments, numerous "sick" days
- ✓ Legal: 1st DUI, open container, disorderly conduct
- ✓ Ethical: late for hearings, "technical" trust violations (reconciliations, ledger cards), "last minute" filings, failure to diligently prosecute/defend

Late Stage

- ✓ Professional: failure to come to the office and/or appear for hearings, intoxicated in court, unprofessional appearance/hygiene, inappropriate mood (depressed, angry, withdrawn), abandonment of practice
- ✓ Legal: 2nd DUI, controlled substance charge, domestic violence
- ✓ Ethical: Substantive trust violations (misappropriation), statute of limitations violations, dishonesty to tribunal